X-MEN®: RONIN

MARVEL

LIMITED SERIES

4 OF 5

TORRES
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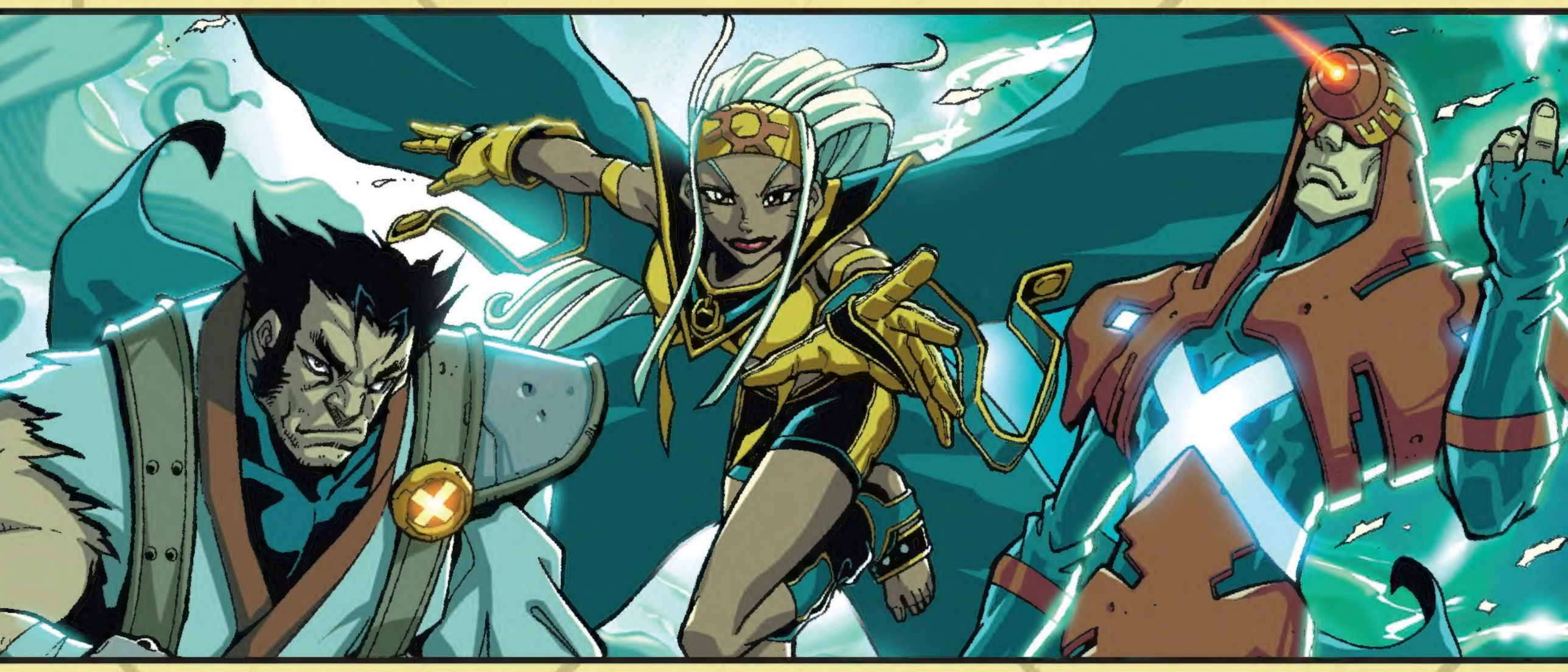
X-MEN: RONIN

PART FOUR: KAKUAGE (Promotion)

Who are the X-Men?

The X-Men are a mutant team dedicated to preserving the peace between mutants and humans, and protecting the world from mutants who believe their genes make them the rightful inheritors of the Earth! They are... Wolverine (Logan), Samurai Slasher! Cyclops (Scott Summers), One-Eyed Warrior! Storm (Ororo Munroe), Weather Witch! And Marvel Girl (Jean Grey), Sultry Psychic!

Emma Frost, a powerful mutant telepath, is bent on recruiting Jean Grey for the exclusive mutant Hellfire Club – so Frost can secure her own promotion in the club's ranks. She's sent bad-news mutants Iceman, Pyro and Colossus to attack the X-Men in their headquarters, and also convinced the local police that the X-Men are a band of marauding monsters! The X-Men have no trouble capturing Frost's thugs, but the police are a different story – even Storm's police officer boyfriend, Forge, thinks the X-Men ought to be behind bars. While Storm and Cyclops take a wounded Wolverine to their teacher Master Toad after a battle with the police, Jean is alone at headquarters minding the prisoners as police surround the building! Assailed on all sides, Jean lets loose with the full extent of her powers... and the results are explosive!



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What's the matter, Emma?

Units 2 and 4 are down! Do you copy? Units 2 and 4 are down!

We have to go in there! Find the others...

No! We need back-up...

We can't go, sir! We're not ready.

Sir!

You're not ready, or the machines aren't ready?

Begging your pardon, sir! Forge means the equipment, sir! I just installed some new software we haven't even field-tested.

Sir!

The situation has escalated quickly. Chief Yoshida wants us out there *now*.

HANAD

3

2

4

5

1

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I have trained you for almost a year now. I trust in your abilities, and...

...I believe you will pilot these magnificent machines you helped build with honor and valor like the modern-day samurai that you are.

Did you feel that?

Yes. My minions have failed. But something's also happened to Jean Grey...

Jean!

Let's get the @#$& outta here!

What have you done to her?!

Out of our way, freak!

KRAKOOM!

Storm!

Are you okay? Is Jean all right?

If I were you, I'd worry about myself!

PSHOOP!

PSHOOP!

Doug, I'm picking up five mutant signatures.

Copy that, Sentinel One. ETA is 7.4 minutes and counting.

And, uh, Forge... you're veering a little off course, man. Try and stay in formation, will ya?

Sorry!

What is that?

Here comes trouble.

Cyclops! Look for Jean! I'll handle these guys!

FSHOOP!

BHOOP!

Forget them! Let's just get out of here while we still can!

Jean!

Omigod! Those murderers! They killed them. They killed them all...

No...

Jean, where are you?

I did this.

I killed them, Scott...

Wh-what are those?!

Oh, man... they're huge! We gotta get outta here! Could be more muties...

More muties, indeed.

Master Toad! You've decided to join us after all.

For now, Storm. For now.

Hey, you guys! Over here!

Jean! I'm so relieved that you're okay.

Hanging in there...

She's unharmed, then?

Yeah, I think so. You're feeling better as well, Wolverine?

Sure, but I've seen better days.

What do they want?

Mutants! By order of the Sentinel Force, you are to surrender...

...or die!

Does that answer your question, Cyclops?

Yup.

I repeat: Surrender or...

WHACK!

CRACK

Ha! The old man's still got it!

Mayday! Mayday!

Somebody help! Get this thing off of me!

SKRAK!

No, Jean... you come with me.

Qrorо...?!

Forge?

Run! Get away from here...

ARGH!

No!

SKREEE!

I've gotcha, Ororo!

SKROW!

Just as I was able to sense the weakness in that first Sentinel, I can sense in you...

...a tremendous energy.

You are afraid of it. As well you should be.

You know not what to do with it...

You must dispel this energy, Jean. And this is as good a time as any to do that.

I do not wish to harm you.

Can't say I feel the same way.

Focus on the energy, Jean. Feel it inside you. Now, bring it together. Concentrate it in one place. Let it gather... grow... take form within you. Then...

...release it!

Oh...

I have you, Jean. It's okay.

Wow.

Seems you've recuperated... and then some.

B-but our home...

Yeah, what do we do now?

I would say there's only one thing you can do...

Move.

TO BE CONCLUDED...